

I am commenting on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate program is an important one to education as students throughout the United States are being asked to learn 21st Century skills for work in this global economy. In Oregon, the state asks for greater alignment, engagement and learning for the common cores standards. The testing will be online and our school district is able to do this only because of the infrastructure that is in place.

Costs for networking systems with broad band capabilities is expensive and takes away a huge portion of district funds to install and maintain. The E-Rate program can help relieve that financial pressure and allow schools to hire more teachers, reduce class sizes and provide the experience and skills that the youth of today will need to remain competitive in the current job market.

As a Spanish teacher it is difficult to provide on-line resources that work smoothly without band width. I must be selective with my resources based on what will work with the equipment we have instead of what would most effectively illustrate culture for my students and allow them to interact with that culture through internet services that exist now.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.